

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-18, 22, and 24-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended by the present amendment. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1, 2-4, 7, 9, 10, 14-18, 22, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Umemoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,323, hereinafter Umemoto); Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umemoto as applied to Claims 1 and 3 and further in view of Lassaux et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,679,230, hereinafter Lassaux); and Claims 11, 12, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Umemoto as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of Sih (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,134).

Applicants thank Examiner Jamal and Primary Examiner Barnie for the interview granted Applicants' representatives on August 23, 2004. During the interview, how the claimed invention differed from the cited references of record, how the claims may be drafted to overcome the outstanding rejections, and proposed amendments to Claims 1 and 16 were discussed. More specifically, claim amendments further defining the speaker amplification value and the connections for transmitting the speaker amplification value directly to the echo processing unit and output speaker amplifier were discussed.

In response to the objections to the drawings, substitute Figures 15 and 16 are submitted herewith including "Background Art" labels. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 1 recites a voice communication device including a control CPU unit outputting a speaker amplification value corresponding to the

volume of the speaker adjusted by a terminal user and an echo processing unit including an adaptive filter, wherein “said adaptive filter is directly connected to the control CPU, and said control CPU outputs the speaker amplification value directly to the adaptive filter and the output amplifier.” Similarly, amended Claim 16 recites an echo processor including an adaptive filtering process and speaker amplification value input port for receiving a speaker amplification value corresponding to volume which is adjusted by using a volume control unit, wherein “said adaptive filtering process receives said speaker amplification value directly from said speaker amplification value input port.” Therefore, the voice communication device of amended Claim 1 and the echo processor of amended Claim 16 provide an echo processing unit that reduces echo using the speaker amplification value.

Umemoto discloses a speech communicating apparatus with an echo canceller 30, wherein the echo canceller 30 is provided with a volume control 36 and amplitude limiter 35.<sup>1</sup> In Umemoto, a speech signal RS is supplied to the amplitude limiter 35 through the volume control 36. The volume control 36 changes the level of the received speech signal RS by a level corresponding to the volume control signal VOC from a control circuit 40.<sup>2</sup> The output RSS of the amplitude limiter 35 is then input to the adaptive filter 31 of the echo canceller 30. In Umemoto, the adaptive filter 31 is not directly connected to control circuit 40 or volume control 36. Therefore, Umemoto does not disclose the voice communicating device as in amended Claim 1, wherein “said adaptive filter is directly connected to the control CPU, and said control CPU outputs the speaker amplification value directly to the adaptive filter and the output amplifier.” Likewise, Umemoto fails to disclose the echo processor of amended Claim 16, wherein “said adaptive filtering process receives said speaker amplification value directly from said speaker amplification value input port.” Therefore, Umemoto does not teach each and every element of amended Claims 1 or 16, and

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<sup>1</sup> Umemoto, Abstract and Figures 2, 5, and 8.

<sup>2</sup> Umemoto, column 5, lines 34-49.

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Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004.

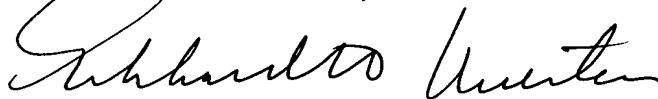
it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated by Umemoto.  
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The cited references of Sih and Lassaux have been considered but fail to cure the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Umemoto. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-15 and 17-26 which depend from Claims 1 and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to the parent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the prior art rejections to dependent Claims 2-15 and 17-26 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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